

# THE NVH OBSERVER

N O R F O L K V E T E R A N S H O M E

## NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### From The Desk of Jerry Eisenhauer NVH Administrator

**GOVERNOR:**  
**PETE RICKETTS**

**DHHS CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER:**  
**COURTNEY PHILLIPS**

**VETERANS' HOMES DIVI-  
SION  
DIRECTOR:**  
**JOHN HILGERT**

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STATE OF NEBRASKA VISION:  
GROW NEBRASKA

STATE OF NEBRASKA — MISSION:  
CREATE OPPORTUNITY THROUGH MORE  
EFFECTIVE, MORE  
EFFICIENT,  
AND CUSTOMER FOCUSED  
STATE GOVERNMENT

Happy New Year,

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and the New Year brings you peace and prosperity. 2016 was an exciting and challenging year at Norfolk Veterans Home. We completed several construction projects during 2016. Some of these projects include finishing replacing most of the carpet/flooring throughout the home and a complete remodel of the canteen area. We also completed the installation of a larger capacity emergency generator that can power the entire facility if necessary. Shingles, gutters and siding were replaced on the entire facility and a drainage project is nearing completion that will help divert water away from the front circle drive. These physical plant additions play a small part in accomplishing our mission of "Members Living Well". That being said, they mean little without the excellent care that continues to be delivered by our staffs. THANK YOU to all staffs!

Heroes Park and the Memorial Flag Pavilion continue to be magnificent additions to our campus. Several big events, including our Fourth of July celebration and Memorial Day took place in these venues during 2016. A Viet Nam Memorial will be added to the Flag Pavilion next year and a horseshoe pit was added to the park during 2016. This is just the beginning of the potential the future holds for the Park and Pavilion.

NVH was able to continue offering the Nurse Aide Course at no cost to qualified applicants; and the course has become a wonderful tool to both help deserving individuals better themselves, and at the same time, fill openings on our schedule with caring individuals. We look forward to starting a new class at the beginning of 2017.

Of course the caring and dedication of our staff members continued during 2016. There is nothing I can say to express my appreciation and respect for their efforts except, THANK YOU AND THANK GOD that we still have individuals who sacrifice their time and time spent with their families to ensure that our members get the care they need.

We truly have a wonderful home for our members to enjoy the highest quality of life they could get, short of their own homes. I credit this not only to our staff, but an entire network of volunteer organizations, family support and community pride.

We look forward to continuing to provide quality care for our current and future members and facing new challenges together in 2017.

Sincerely,

Jerry Eisenhauer  
Administrator

# HOME HAPPENINGS

The presentation of the Freedom Soars quilt was held Dec. 7, at the Norfolk Veterans Home, The date commemorated the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. This year "In remembrance of the fallen and all those soldiers who have remembered The Salvation Army in their estate plans, we want to give something back," said Diane K. Moore, Planned Giving Associate with The Salvation Army. After 60 hours of cutting, stitching, designing and quilting, the quilt of valor ( made by Delores Patocka) known as 'Freedom Soars' was presented for permanent display to the members of our home. The public was invited and homemade frosted sugar cookies made by Diana Moore were served to everyone's delight.



Interested in Volunteer  
Opportunities at

NVH?

Contact

Sheila Kube at

Phone:

(402) 370-3102

E-Mail:

Sheila.kube@nebraska.gov

## HOLIDAY SPIRIT



December kept our members very busy. We had numerous Christmas parties sponsored by the AM Vets, Norfolk Elks, NE Dept. American Legion, and Legion Riders. Many groups of carolers visited over the month and we got LOTS of donations from various Veterans Organizations, churches and individuals. Thank you to for your donations this past year, it is greatly appreciated.

# SALUTE OUR NEW MEMBERS

NORFOLK VETERANS HOME WELCOMES YOU

**Dennis Brewster**

Branch of Service: U.S. Air Force  
Hometown: Butte, NE



THE NORFOLK VETERANS HOME IS A STATE-OPERATED FACILITY PROVIDING  
LONG TERM CARE FOR ELIGIBLE NEBRASKA VETERANS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING ADMISSION,  
PLEASE CONTACT YOUR

LOCAL COUNTY SERVICE OFFICER  
OR KARI CALVILLO @ (402) 370-3109  
OR  
COLLEEN BENSON @ (402) 370-3469

## In Remembrance of Those Members Who Have Passed.

Although no sculptured marble should rise to their memory,  
nor engraved stone bear record of their deed, yet will their re-  
membrance be as lasting as the land they honored.

~Daniel Webster

*Arlon Herley*

*William "Bill" Moore*

*James Haspeslagh*

*Kenneth Drake*

*Vernon "Shorty" Uttech*





## NEW EMPLOYEES



Wynter Reaver  
Position: RN



Sara Bauermeister  
Position: Food Service Cook



Jeremy Murray  
Position: Housekeeper



Sarah Nelson  
Position: Staff Care Tech II



Ray Rutland  
Position: RN

## EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



**Congratulations  
Employee of the Year 2016  
Lynette Wells**

Lynette is one of Norfolk Veterans Home's Switchboard Operators/Receptionists and is a welcoming first impression to our home. Lynette is always willing to assist our members, a guest or co-worker who needs assistance with a project. Her smile and easy laugh make her a favorite with all.

Congratulations Lynette on this well deserved honor.

**MEMBER OF THE MONTH****DARWIN JOHNSON****BY: LIZ DAVIS**

Darwin ("Dar") Johnson was born October 26, 1939, on a farm in Wausa, Nebraska. He is the second born of nine children. Dar was two years old when his father moved the family to Osmond, Nebraska, for a better cattle raising opportunity. His father became well known for his cattle ranch.

Dar attended Osmond schools and graduated from Osmond High School in 1948. Dar enjoyed playing the trombone in the band, receiving honors from county and state. He still plays today even if it is just for five-ten minutes before the lip goes.

After graduating in 1948, Dar (along with his older brother) was part of a band that played area dances. This only lasted a few years, however, as the members started to get drafted. Dar's buddy convinced him to join the Marines with him. Dar called home to say he had passed his physical and he was informed that his draft notice had just arrived.

Dar was sent to San Diego for boot camp and then to Camp Pendleton for tank driving training. Dar arrived in Korea in March 1953. Just a month later, on April 23, 1953, a day that Dar will never forget, the tank he was driving with three other men inside got hit by a rocket, disabling the tank. Dar and another man were able to escape from the bottom of the tank and crawl three hundred feet to safety. The other two men perished in their escape from the top of the tank.

The war was over by July 1953 and Dar was sent to Japan in August or September where he stayed for just a couple of months before being shipped back to the States. Dar had achieved the rank of Sergeant.

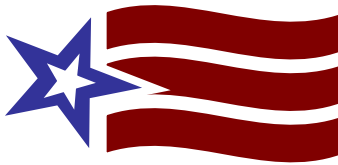
Dar was then sent to Quantico, Virginia, to receive training to become a Marine Corps Drill Sergeant. After completing his training, he was back in San Diego putting his training to work. During this time, his younger brother was drafted and Dar felt the need to be home to help his father. His request to be discharged was granted. Dar helped his father on the cattle ranch for a couple of years. Dar then took an offer from a relative in Wausa to run his farm.

Dar married Rolanda Hoffman in August 1956, who he had known since they were kids. She really had been the girl next door. Rolanda and Dar were married for thirty-one years before her passing in 1987. Rolanda and Dar had six sons and two daughters. The sons live in the Osmond, Plainview and Wausa area. Both daughters live in Las Vegas. The sons have made Darwin a grandfather twelve times and eight times a great grandfather. Dar and Rolanda raised a thousand pigs a year on their farm. Somehow, Dar found time to get out and pheasant hunt, a hobby he very much liked. Dar is a life member of the VFW and the American Legion. He has served as Commander in both organizations and as District Chaplain for the American Legion. Four years later, Dar married Jeanette who was a widow with four grown children. They were married for twenty-one years. Jeanette lived at NVH until her passing in 2012.

Dar moved to NVH nine years ago. He is so happy he resides here. He likes the care he receives and very much enjoys the many activities offered. Dar also enjoys going to Osmond twice a month to see his brothers and sons. He is very proud that he served in the Marine Corps and wishes he had stayed in the Corps longer than he did.

**Bits & Pieces****CENSUS  
135****Special  
Occasion  
Room****Reservations:  
Call Activities @  
(402) 370-3330****Join A Member  
For a Meal  
Only \$2.50  
24 Hr. Notice  
Please**

WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.DHHS.NE.GOV/VETERANS/  
PAGES/VETS\_NORFOLK.ASPX



Norfolk Veterans Home

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES

EOE/AA/ADA

600 E. Benjamin Ave.

Norfolk, NE 68701

Phone: (402)370-3330



## MARINES CELEBRATE



The U.S. Marine Corp celebrated 241 years. Pictured above are our Veteran Marines as well as some special guests.



Norfolk Veterans' Home Observer is published monthly  
for the members, families, staff and other interested parties.

## ACTIVITY PROFESSIONAL WEEK



The week of January 17th to 23rd, 2017 is **National Activity Professional Week**. This week was created to give honor and recognition to those dedicated individuals who contribute so significantly to the quality of life to those they serve. Their creativity and energy make life much more enjoyable to those who reside here at the Veterans Home.

We want to extend our appreciation and gratitude to the staff of the Recreational Department here at the Veterans Home. So when you see them during this week say **"Thanks"** to **DeAnn Stodola, Sheila Kube, Michelle Schommer, Mary Swensen, Deb Becker, and Cindy Throener.**